

CLAIMS

What is claimed as invention is:

1. A wall fastener locating and marking tool, comprising:

5 a vertical member having an upper end, a lower end, and a longitudinal axis;

a horizontal bar attached to said vertical member with connection means proximate said upper end and having a longitudinal axis substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis of said vertical member, and further including leveling means;

a handle portion connected to and disposed from said upper end of said vertical member;

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a marking tool assembly releasably connected to said vertical member and slidable along said longitudinal axis of said vertical member, said marking tool assembly including a marking tool having a tip, and retention means for bearing an object by its wall fastener hardware during use.

15 2. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said vertical member includes at least a front side and a back side.

3. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said vertical member further includes a slot running
20 proximate said lower end to proximate said upper end.

4. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said leveling means is a level bubble disposed in a substantially parallel orientation to said longitudinal axis of said horizontal bar.

5 5. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said horizontal bar is generally elongate and includes at least a bottom side and a back side.

6. The apparatus of claim 5, wherein said bottom side of said horizontal bar is substantially planar and is parallel to said longitudinal axis of said horizontal bar.

10 7. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said horizontal bar has a mid-portion and further includes a recess at said mid-portion which mates with said vertical member.

8. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said connection means is a screw.

15 9. The apparatus of claim 1, further including padding material attached to said back side of said horizontal bar and includes a bottom side substantially planar and parallel to the longitudinal axis of said horizontal bar.

20 10. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said handle portion is integral with said vertical member.

11. The apparatus of claim 10, wherein vertical member includes a bend at said upper end which directs an extension of said vertical member forwardly and downwardly to form said handle portion.

5 12. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said handle portion includes a grip portion having a molded grip.

13. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said marking tool assembly further includes a protective collar disposed around marking tool tip.

10 14. The apparatus of claim 13, wherein said marking tool assembly includes a marking punch having a pointed tip comprising said marking tool tip.

15 15. The apparatus of claim 14, wherein said marking punch further includes a threaded middle portion and a conical cap, the latter providing a channel in which fastener hardware may be disposed when in use.

20 16. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said marking tool assembly includes a nut having a front side for surface-to-surface frictional contact with said vertical member, a rear side, and a threaded hole extending from the front adapted to releasably capture said threaded middle portion of said marking punch.

17. The apparatus of claim 16, wherein said nut includes a cavity housing resilient material which urges said protective collar into an extended position, and wherein said protective collar is axially disposed around said marking tool tip and is depressible into the cavity so as to expose said marking tool tip.

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18. The apparatus of claim 15, wherein said nut includes annular gripping structure and a retention plate each concentrically disposed on said nut and defining a channel intermediate said gripping structure and said retention plate.

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19. The apparatus of claim 1, further including a resilient clip interposed between said handle portion and said vertical member for releasably capturing an object between said clip and said vertical member.

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20. The apparatus of claim 19, wherein said clip includes a non-slip resilient base.

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WALL FASTENER LOCATING AND MARKING TOOL

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